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Title: Spread of chronic Kidney disease in Uddanam in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very grave issue that is plaguing the State of Andhra Pradesh in general and my constituency of Srikakulam in particular. Since 1993, in the region of Uddanam in Srikakulam, 15,000 people have died of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) and more than 20,000 people have been severely affected by this disease. The circumstances surrounding the disease are shrouded in mystery. Numerous research teams - from local, state, national and international agencies including research teams from Harvard University and WHO " have visited the area and still no one can tell the people of Uddanam why the people are dying. Chronic Kidney Disease usually manifests in certain conditions that include obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, polluted water and air quality, harmful pesticides and high alcohol consumption. However none of these conditions is present in Uddanam. Yet at least 2000 people with damaged kidneys are undergoing hemodialysis right now. Local hospitals are unable to cope up with the number of dialysis cases brought to them daily and are unable to administer to such large numbers.

The disease is typically seen to affect men between the ages of 26 and 40, and in agrarian societies where men are usually the sole breadwinners. Further, outsiders refuse to step into this region, neighbouring villages do not want to marry anyone from Uddanam, farms are not cultivated, commerce lies idle, people live in constant fear and therefore the socio-economic balance of this area has completely disintegrated. The least we can do for the people of Uddanam/Srikakulam is to find the cause behind CKD in this region. I request the Central Government to give this matter due consideration it deserves and

immediately commission an ICMR team to inspect and investigate the region and ensure that this time the results are not inconclusive. Furthermore, I urge the Government to take any other steps that it deems necessary to tackle this medical crisis.